

The Veiled Men of the Sahara

They Mask Their Faces, Like Moslem Women, and Even Their Wives Never See the Veil Removed.



EVERYBODY knows that the women of Morocco, Algeria, and other parts of North Africa habitually wear veils in public, as women do in most Mohammedan countries; but few people are aware that in the vast desert which stretches along the back of the Barbary States there dwells a numerous and powerful tribe of men whose faces may never be seen. They are the Tuaregs, the Veiled Men of the Sahara. Their tribal name is also spelled Tawarek and Touareg.

The Men Are Veiled, but the Women Expose Their Faces.

As far as is known, this tribe is the only one in the world in which the men are habitually veiled, while the faces of the women are exposed to the gaze of any stranger.

The Tuareg veil is really a mask of cloth worn over the lower part of the face. Usually there is another mask which comes down over the forehead, only a small slit being left through which the man can see and breathe.

It is a point of honor with a Tuareg never to entirely remove his veil. He thinks it as shameful to expose the whole of his face as a civilized man would deem it to appear in public unclothed. The two Tuaregs shown in the photograph were envoys from their tribe sent to Tunis to settle a dispute with the French officials of the Tunis Protectorate. Much persuasion was needed to induce them to lower their masks somewhat when the photograph was taken.

Sir Harry MacLean, the Scottish soldier of fortune, who recently commanded the troops of the Sultan of Morocco, knows the Tuaregs well, and has often enjoyed the hospitality of the tribe on his frequent expeditions into the Sahara. He assured the writer that he had never once seen a Tuareg unveiled, and he did not believe that any other white man had done so. Since then, however, an American traveler has returned from the Sahara to this country and stated that he induced some Tuaregs to uncover their faces, and even took photographs of them.

He that as it may, a Tuareg ordinarily does not remove his mask even when he eats and sleeps. It is said in Morocco that a woman may be married to a man of the tribe for a lifetime and never once see his face. Any attempt to uncover it would be visited with swift vengeance.

Why a Tuareg Slew a French Officer.

A story is told in Algiers of a Tuareg chieftain who visited a French outpost on the edge of the Sahara to complain that some of the soldiers had kidnapped a woman from his tribe. The commandant of the post had been drinking too much absinthe just before the visit, and he swore that no "dirty indigene" should speak to him with his face covered. The Tuareg, with quiet dignity, refused to lower his mask. "It is against my faith," he said. The commandant staggered up to him and put his hand on the cloth veil, intending to tear it away. Quick as a flash the Tuareg thrust his spear through the drunkard's breast, though he was surrounded by a score of his soldiers and officers. Before they could recover from their amazement he had vaulted on his horse and dashed away over the desert. They never caught him, and the reprisals attempted by the French authorities were unsuccessful. The Tuaregs are the most nomadic of all the wandering tribes

of the Sahara. To look for them in the limitless desert when they do not want to be found is worse than looking for the proverbial needle in a haystack.

No traveler has yet been able to discover why the Tuaregs are veiled. Various reasons have been given, but none appears to be satisfactory. It is said to be a religious rite, but the Tuaregs are Mohammedans—of a rather unorthodox type, it is true—and nothing in the Mohammedan creed enjoins the covering of a man's face. Indeed, there are passages in the Koran which appear to forbid it; and the Sunni Mullahs of Morocco never tire of denouncing the enormity of the proceeding whenever they happen to see a wandering Tuareg in the streets of Marakesh or Fez.

The Tuaregs are really a branch of the Bedouins, though some travelers and ethnologists seek to make them out to be a distinct people. The Bedouins are not a tribe or a nation, as most people appear to think, but a race which is divided into many tribes of widely differing characteristics.

The Tuaregs Are Generous Hosts and Good Husbands.

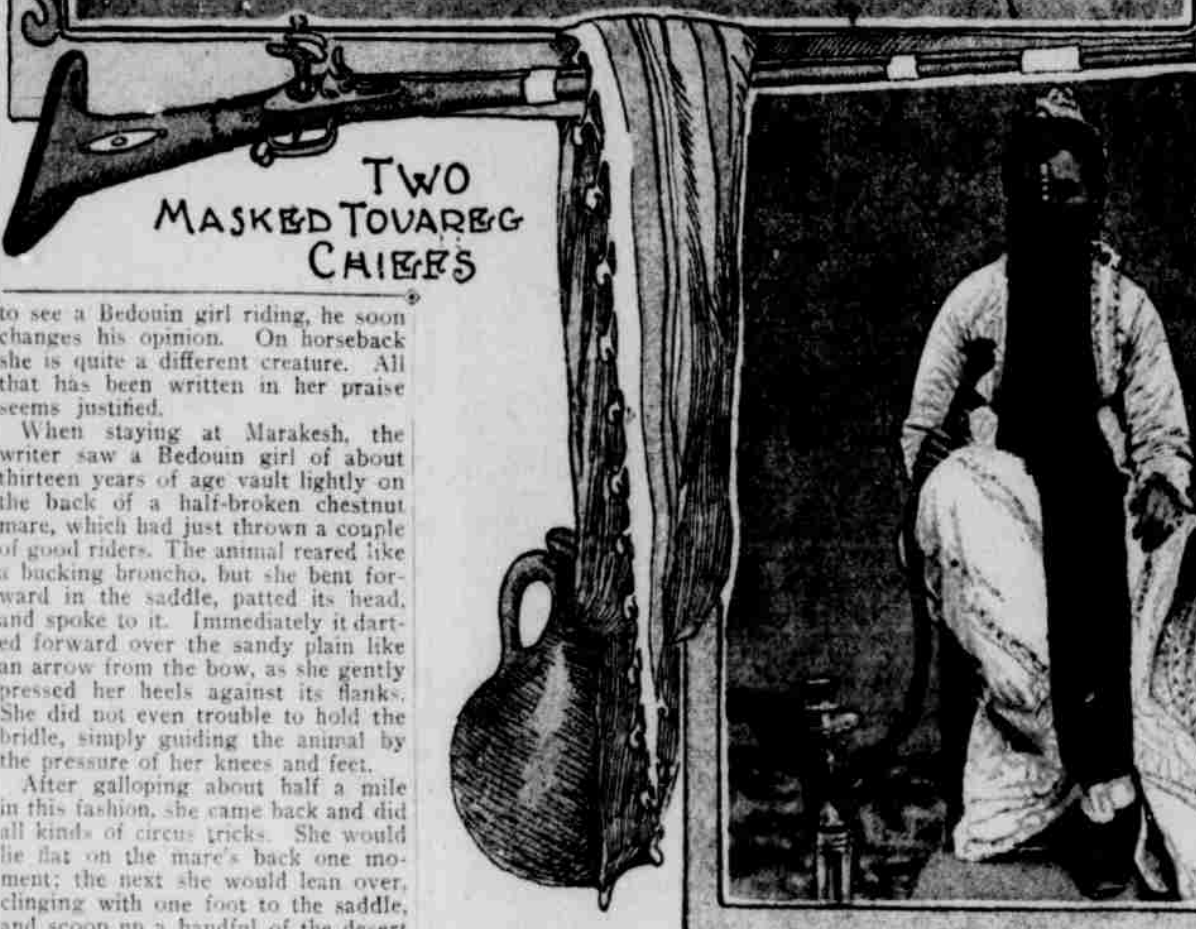
Sir Harry MacLean and other white men who have visited the Tuaregs in their desert camps say that they were received with all the much-vaunted Bedouin "hospitality." "A Tuareg sheikh in his black skin tent," said Sir Harry, "is as fine a gentleman and as generous a host as any Scottish laird in his Highland castle."

Sir Harry is not the only man who has a good word to say for the Tuaregs. Mr. W. J. Harding King, who has visited them, praises them highly in an entertaining article in the December number of "Harper's Magazine." "In their domestic circle," he says, "they are almost model family men, and their good qualities are nowhere more apparent than in their treatment of their womenkind, which in many respects recalls the romantic and chivalrous customs of the feudal ages in Europe." This is, perhaps, rather too enthusiastic; but it certainly is true that the Tuaregs treat their women much better than their neighbors do.

In a region where all women are supposed to be veiled, these Veiled Men of the Sahara are naturally regarded with scorn and treated with contempt whenever it is safe to do so. A wandering Tuareg in Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, or Egypt is sure to be insulted and maltreated by his fellow Moslems because of his feminine badge. But it is dangerous to mock him, for he belongs to a tribe famous for hot temper and fighting qualities. The Bedouin "bint" (girl) is as remarkable in her way, as the Tuareg man. She is the only one of her sex in North Africa who does not habitually go veiled. She lives more nearly on an equality with men than most women in Moslem countries. In the wild, free life of the desert, she develops a high-spirited individuality impossible to the dwellers in city harems which are forbidden by law to have even a window looking upon the street.

How the Bedouin Girl Disappoints the Tourists.

Much has been written about the beauty and grace of these Bedouin maidens, and tourists in Morocco and Algeria are usually deeply disappointed when they happen to see one in the streets of a market town. Their features are coarse, their movements are ungainly, their voices loud and harsh, and their faces so deeply marked by the scars of self-inflicted wounds that it seems a pity they do not veil themselves like the rest of their sex. They wear dirty capes of undressed sheepskin, and a kirtle of roughly-spun native cloth, or perhaps a skirt of cheap Manchester trade print. "What dirty, ugly, ungraceful women!" is the usual verdict of the tourist. But if, by good fortune, he happens



A VEILED BEAUTY OF TUNIS WITH HER SERVANT



THE BEDOVIN MAID GOES UNVEILED

This Man Must Have Been Glad to Die

If ever there was a man who had no use for life he was the late William Bolt, upon whose moss-grown tombstone at St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica, the following cantankerous epitaph may be deciphered:

William Bolt, who, after having been an inhabitant of this miserable world full 73 years, renounced its pomps and vanities the 26th day of March, 1885. "Thanks to my stars, I am at length set free."

From Envy, Malice, Pride and Calumny.

The rugged paths of life no longer tire. Nor base ingratitude provokes my ire. Let storms arise, let thundering billows roar.

Safe now at anchor, all my fears are o'er. Worldly solicitude nor war's alarms My Peace annoy, nor summon me to arms.

Woman's inconstancies no longer vex. Nor life's intricacies shall me perplex. For now Celestial Peace a-Liehe proves And sweet Oblivion every care removes.

Mr. Bolt's death must have been the happiest event of his life.

Steamers Which Charge the Shore

The captains of the little river steamers which ply up and down the River Orinoco, in Venezuela, have a curious way of landing their passengers. At most of the towns and villages along the banks of the river there are no wharves, and so the captains adopt the rapid and effective method of running their steamers ashore at low tide on the soft mud of the banks. This has grown to be the custom in the navigation of the Orinoco.

Now and then, it is true, a sharp rock will find itself in the way of an over-adventurous steamer, and the owner has to build a new one; but, nevertheless, the practice of charging the shore is persistently followed. It commends itself to passengers because it saves them a good deal of time. The steamer, of course, has to wait until high tide floats it.

Novel Stocks and Collars

Of neckwear there is no end, and the stocks are more elaborate than ever, being shown with or without the long tabs. A new and dainty style is one of lace, having points on the shoulder, as well as at the back and front.

A feature of another is a heavy fall of pleated chiffon suspended from beneath a lace medallion on either side of the collar, then brought to the front, where the scarf is loosely tied. The ends are finished with lace points. Some of the smartest stocks are made of Oriental embroidery in conjunction with novelty braid. Beautiful sets are shown with long pointed or rounded cuffs of silk, velvet, cloth and also leather, studded with little steel, gilt or crystal beads, in lieu of French knots. The newest stiff collars are also elaborately embroidered. One wide turnover collar buttons in the back, and is worn without a tie.

Left-Handed Philosophy.

Men of moods are usually of the imperative and subjunctive.

It is a good thing for most folks that their thoughts have no legal witnesses.

The honest man does not protest his virtue. He refuses to risk his reputation.

Three things are necessary: Fitness for one's work, love of it, and confidence in winning.

Happiness comes from limiting desires rather than by increasing the attempt to satisfy them all.

A philosopher aimed an arrow at the sun. "You cannot hit it," they cried to him. "No," he replied, "but I can try." So they honored him for trying.

HARRY P. TABER.

UP-TO-DATE TIPS FOR HOME DRESSMAKERS—BY ROSA E. PAYNE

Dainty Finishes for Waists.

ANYONE with clever fingers may, at slight expense, turn out a dainty trimming for, or addition to, a plain waist.

If a woman has a piece of plain chiffon with which she would like to



make a pretty yoke to wear with a low neck dress she should purchase a small string of gold, pearl or steel beads and a piece of thick insertion of a size to fit around the neck as a stand-up collar. With these, a pretty effect may be obtained in the following manner:

Run half-inch tucks, an inch apart, down the chiffon; then refold them so as to connect them into box pleats. Place one pleat for the center, cut out the front and back of the yoke, opening it down the middle of the back.

In cutting endeavor to make the pleats exactly meet on the shoulders, which then seam. Press the turnings open, cutting them as narrow as possible and overcasting the edges. Sew the gold beads at intervals on the pleats, and also on the lace for the collar, which must be secured over the neck edge.

Sew very small hooks down the back edge, as invisibly as possible, and work eyes to meet them. Make a rosette of chiffon to finish the back of the collar.

Crepé de chine, silk muslin or any similar texture may be used in this way. In making a separate yoke, the best plan is to cut it sufficiently deep to take in the complete armhole. Then set the lower edge into a rather deep band of muslin, which may either be fitted to the figure by small pleats, or may have a draw-string in the lower edge.

Figure 1 shows a pretty and becoming way of providing a separate trimming which can be worn over a simple low neck waist.

It is made of strips of insertion, formed and alternated by pieces of ribbon prettily embroidered or decorated in any way which may be preferred. Small scraps of lace that can have decided patterns cut out of them, beads, or anything else which is effective, may be used.

The points of the ribbons are

cut to shape without any seams, and to open at the back. It is edged with an unfinished insertion. If a stand-up collar is desired, it may be built up of

with lace braid, unless the pattern of the insertion is such that it can be cut through and yet leave a finished edge.

The idea for this collar may be carried out in various ways for either low, medium or high neck.

Strips of stitched cloth, mired at both ends, can be effectively arranged in a similar manner, allowing them to all but touch at the neckline, and to spread above and below as much as is necessary to make the waist fit nicely.

A little bright color may be introduced under the faceting with good effect by using satin ribbon.

For a very thin figure the strips of cloth may be folded under to make long pleats when laid on to a plain foundation of the cloth. To make the outer edge of this correct, the under cloth should be slashed up a few inches, the edges being secured to those of the fold on top.

Figure 2 illustrates a collar made of embroidered silk, or clear muslin,



extra rows of insertion joined together, or bias strips of the muslin may be fagoted together in any desired form, and the top edge be finished by one row of the insertion.

For a slight figure, with sloping shoulders, a charming drape may be made, something on the order of Figure 3, by cutting a circular piece for the neck out of a square and allowing it to set with a point over each shoulder, and the others at back and front. It is especially pretty for a low neck, but in that case the piece cut out must be more oblong than circular.

Figure 4 is only a suggestion of what may be done with thick insertion, which may often be purchased at a bargain than all-over lace. The strips are simply joined, as illustrated; then diamonds are cut out, and the edges are covered either with a small cross-stitch band of bias silk, when the cartwheels are worked with embroidery twist, or with a lace braid, when thread may be used. It is made to open down the back, which forms a deep, square yoke effect.

The outer edge may be finished with a lace, frill or braid or applique insertion, with equally good effect. If the lace edging is used for the neck, and is of a pattern that lends itself nicely to threading with baby velvet ribbon, this is a pretty and convenient finish, as it holds the edge up nicely.

Those who may desire to make stocks of the narrow folded bias strips of lawn will be glad to know that the strips all ready folded may now be purchased by the piece of a few yards.

The material is of a nice quality and may be had in various colors, as well as white. Well-made stocks of this kind are somewhat costly, which is due to the making rather than the

edge. This is, of course, done after tacking it in place. Pretty narrow strips out of a remnant of silk may be utilized. Silk finishing braid, fagoted with silk twist, makes a durable and pretty collar.

Indeed, it would be difficult to find anything pretty and light which cannot be utilized in some one of the ways suggested.

His Wife a Chinese Lady.

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